THE

MONUMENT CEMETERY

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

(LATE PERE LA CHAISE.)

CONTAINING

SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC ESSAYS

ON THE SUBJECT OF

RURAL CEMETERIES,

WITH

A LITHOGRAPHIC PLAN.

PUBLISHED BY

JOHN A. ELKINTON, M. D. PROJECTOR.

PHILADELPHIA:

1837.

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PLAN

OF THE

MONUMENT CEMETERY

OF PHILADELPHIA,

(Late Père la Chaise Cemetery)

SURVEYED &c. A.D. 1856 BY JOSEPH WOX

JOHN A. ELKINTON M. D. PROPRIETOR.

Draw.ᵈ R. McGlathery Asst.ᵗ Surv.ʳ Lith.ᵈ & Print.ᵈ Lithog.ʳ

1st EDITION.

References

Section	Containing	Area
A	B.	[illegible]
A'	C.	[illegible]
C	D.	[illegible]
A'	E.	[illegible]
C'	F.	[illegible]
		[illegible]

LANE

UPPER AVE.ᵉ

FRANKLIN AVE.ᵉ

NORTH WEST GATE 101.55 on Surface

104. 712 on Surface

CAMAC

ST.

NORTH AVE.ᵉ

TURNERS

CHAPEL

MONUMENT AVE.ᵉ

MONUMENT SQUARE

On Stone Door Sill 109.963

Chapel and Shrubbery

SHORT AVE.ᵉ

CENTRAL

WEST

MONUMENT

WASHINGTON AVE.ᵉ

98.405 on Surface

99.719 on Surface

SOUTH

LAFAYETTE

MIDDLE

RUSH

EAST

LOWER AVE.ᵉ

BROAD

Surface above Tide Water

Note The small Alleys or walks are all 5 feet wide.

Scale of Feet.

Content of Circle bounded by the 20 feet wide Carriage Road 12676 f.ᵗ 11″

Content of circular Carriage Road 904. . 9 .

Total 13424. 1

Diameter of Circle 164 f.ᵗ Area about half an Acre

Content of Cemetery 19 A. 2 R. 10 P.

RACKLIFF & KING, PRINTERS,
South-West Corner of George and Swanwick Streets.

COMMISSIONERS.

The following gentlemen acted as Commissioners for the sale of Stock in the Cemetery.

George Cadwalader,
William M. Camac,
John Northrop, Jr.
Andrew D. Cash,
George W. Tryon,
Matthew Walker,
Jacob F. Hoeckley,
Thomas Hart,
James S. Caldwell,
P. L. Laguerenne,
John Troubat,
A. Borie,
John Swift,
William Stevenson,
J. Coffee,
George W. South,
Benjamin Matthias,
Jesper Harding,
John Bosler,
Samuel J. Curtis,
John Thompson, P.
John S. Cash,
Jacob Frick,
Lawrence Shuster,
Thomas Matlack,
James M. Bolton,
Joseph Smith,
Joseph Johns,
Joseph Sharp,
Philip Ricketts,
Charles J. Wolbert,
Nathan R. Potts,
Henry Bond, M. D.

BOARD OF OFFICERS.

At an election for officers of the "Pere la Chaise Cemetery," held at the Merchants' Exchange, on Saturday, the 29th July inst., the following named gentlemen were duly elected, viz.:

Trustees.

Joseph Trotter, Charles J. Wolbert,
Samuel J. Curtis.

Treasurer.

George W. South.

Managers.

George W. Tryon, Jacob Gilliams,
John A. Elkinton, Jonathan Coffee,
Nathan R. Potts, Jacob F. Hoeckley,
Benjamin Matthias, Isaac Meyer,
Joseph Plankinton, Robert C. Martin,
Joseph Sharp, Thomas F. Goodwin,
John L. Woolf, George H. Burgin,
John Lindsay.

Attest—

Robert C. Martin, Peter A. Keyser,
John L. Woolf, John S. Cash,
T. M. Femington, Isaac Boileau,
Jonathan Coffee.

Committee to superintend the Election.

INTRODUCTION.

EVERY man who is not wholly indifferent to what is passing around him, must have witnessed the distress and excitement which encroachments upon grave-yards have frequently occasioned in our city. The practice of trespassing upon the hallowed spot, which they were accustomed to venerate as the resting place of the bones of their fathers, has more outraged the feelings of the good people of Philadelphia, than any other circumstance with which I am acquainted. Always respectful to the laws, the ordinary quiet of our community has been proverbially acknowledged, save when the ruthless hand of man, has desecrated the grave-yard, and promiscuously buried in utter forgetfulness the remains of our ancestors, under the very bricks which modern improvements have ordered for our footpaths.

A recollection of scenes like those to which I allude, is known to most persons in Philadelphia, who have arrived at years of discretion. Such occurrences are too frequent in every city, and the melancholy remembrance of them, has proved a strong incentive in the establishment of public rural Cemeteries—a custom, which has recently met with such general encouragement and sanction from all classes of citizens.

The importance of rural burial places, to a large city, has appeared to me to be a subject of the first magnitude; not merely from the satisfaction we derive in knowing that our friends would rest more securely in a ground specially appropriated for that purpose, but also because there are higher considerations, which operate with greater force in a more extended view of the subject.

Among the most prominent of these, might be mentioned, the influence of thickly crowded grave-yards upon public health. But as the application of this principle is ably argued in one of the ensuing extracts, I shall merely refer to the more popular sentiment on the subject.

The first object of a Cemetery is to furnish a place for the bodies of the dead, where they may repose free from the insults of the living—where they may not offend the senses in their progress of corruption, and where they may return quietly to their mother earth, in conformity with the great and universal law of nature, and the ordinance of nature's God! In former times, as we read, human ingenuity and skill were engaged exclusively in providing means against the decomposition and decay which speedily dissolves all inanimate organic matter. But as the minds of men became enlightened, and the dark cloud of ignorance and superstition fled away, these antiquated notions of giving perpetuity to the dead remains of mortality, gradually yielded to the more rational dictates of a sounder philosophy. Now, no longer does human ingenuity tax itself to perpetuate the lifeless corpse; no longer do dead nations slumber in awful silence wrapped in the tissues and embalmed in the gums of human devices; no longer is the lifeless body preserved from destruction when the vital spark has deserted its mansion. No catacombs now receive new subjects to prolong the process of corruption; for

> "Why should the worthless teguments endure,
> When their undying flame is lost forever?"

The present more enlightened age of the world, consigns at once, earth, to its parent earth, after it has fulfilled the great designs of the Creator in an organized form; and men now neither hope nor seek, to arrest the loathsome operations of the charnel-house. True, indeed, while the features are preserved, it is chastening to the heart to look upon those we have loved in life; and in the simple vault, sacred to the bodies of friends, may we thus contemplate the sad ravages of death.

The great purpose of a Cemetery is to remove from the view of such as remain in life, all those upon whom the world has forever closed; and that when the spirit has winged its flight to the God

who gave it, the tenement may dissolve again into the dust from which it sprang.

The next object of a Cemetery is to procure a place in which natural beauties, and conveniences may be combined with the labours of art, to render it a spot that the living may look upon with feelings of melancholy delight. In its *fairest* form, death is appalling to the mind; but how much are its terrors increased, when we know that our earthly remains will be consigned to a place that affection cannot consecrate. In the crowded grave-yards of a great city, this is indeed most lamentably the case. No stately tree, no shrub nor flower, can there find room to flourish. The prospect is only one of utter and hopeless desolation. Friends fulfil the last rites of interment, and see that the sod is placed over the hasty grave, and then go back to the world, to forget the place of repose, and almost the name of him they have conveyed to the tomb. Is not this strictly true in every sense? Let those who doubt, but visit a burial ground in the limits of this city, and then judge for themselves. They will find in many of them, graves crowded upon graves, while the sculptured marble is frequently seen torn from the head of the one it was intended to commemorate. But worse than all this, it too often happens, that when a new tomb is dug, an old one is laid open; and one body that has been slumbering a few years in peace, is removed from its resting place to make room for another, that has also ended its earthly career. For such and many other reasons, the country is better adapted for interment than the narrow confines of a city. In the one, room is abundant for all the purposes of burial; in the other, bodies are necessarily piled upon each other, until every particle of earth is displaced by human remains.

It is, however, not a matter of interest in this point of view alone. Its moral and religious advantages are not the least among many considerations. Here Piety and Affection may pour forth their offerings, and feel new emotions warm and revive them when they begin to grow cold. It is good for the heart to muse over the melancholy mementos of those who *have* lived, and to contemplate the uncertainties of existence. It is profitable for every man sometimes to commune with the spirits of the departed; for like the closing year which is breathing its valedictory admonitions in our

ears, with every autumnal blast, it reminds him of the fact, that the period of his own existence is shortened with every passing zephyr; and that he too, must soon be numbered with the clods of the valley.

Such are some of the views which suggest themselves to popular comprehension, in preferring rural Cemeteries to city grave-yards for interments. The inquiry is no less interesting to the philosopher, the philanthropist, and statesman, than to the man of fashion and taste. From the time of the patriarch's of old, to the present day, a decent curiosity has been shown in matters of sepulture.

Men of science, more especially they whose aim for practical benevolence characterized all their public as well as private acts, have recommended rural Cemeteries for interment. Of these I may merely refer to the article No. 24, from the Philadelphia Gazette, in the succeeding extracts, which quotes the authority of Franklin and Rush—than whom no higher could be named in any country. The first principles of sound philosophy suggest, that we should inquire into *causes*, with a view of understanding *effects*. Hence it has fallen to the lot of medical men more particularly, from their frequent intercourse with disease, to trace out the causes which produced it. A medical philosopher, in the progress of his reasoning on pathological effects, does not confine his researches to the proximate cause alone, but more effectually to ward off a recurrence of similar consequences, searches out all the remote occasions which may have contributed to the disorder. Will it be denied that an accumulation of putrifying animal matter—dead bodies piled upon one another, almost to the surface of the earth; where both solar heat, and summer rains operate together to produce effluvia and poisonous miasmata, are not a prolific source of disease? It does not require argument to prove it. We challenge the most sceptical to refute it.*

With such convictions, and such sentiments, did I regard the subject, before disclosing my views of a new Cemetery to my fellow-citizens,—fully satisfied that the undertaking would commend itself, both on account of its absolute importance to the public, and its relative value as one of the embellishments of Philadelphia.

*See Professor Dunglison s essay, No. 21. Also article No. 24.

To find a location adapted to the purpose, was a matter of no ordinary difficulty and solicitude. It is not a little embarrassing and hazardous, for one man to decide upon a point involving so many nice considerations, as well in matters of fact, as in peculiarities of taste.

Some persons prefer the showy summit of a rising hill, on which to display the tribute of their homage to the dead; while others love to mourn over the grave *alone*, in the solitude of a valley, or in an unfrequented dell. With a population like that of Philadelphia, prudent and cautious in every thing they undertake, it became more a question of *expediency and utility* than of romantic speculation. After several years experience with the peculiarity of soils in the vicinity of Philadelphia, the result of extensive transactions in real estate, I finally decided on the beautiful country residence on Broad street, formerly known as "Sydney Place," about one mile and a half from the city, as the best situation, and combining in itself more natural advantages than any other for a Cemetery. The correctness of my anticipations and predictions respecting this elevated piece of ground, has been fully confirmed by subsequent developements, and a more thorough examination of the premises. It contains nearly twenty acres on the highest part of Broad street, about equi-distant between its intersection with Coates' street and the Germantown Rail Road; and overlooking the whole city, with a gradual *slope* in every direction, it is always dry, picturesque, and inviting. In addition to occupying the very summit of this fashionable and spacious street, the *soil* consists principally of red gravel, a ridge of which, extending from Bush Hill, as the trunk, and branching off in a north-easterly direction, passes completely through it. Such are the prominent considerations which induced me to determine on the establishment of a Cemetery in that situation. How far my opinions were well founded, a generous and discerning public have already furnished abundant proof. Before submitting the extracts which are to follow, I may be permitted to indulge in a brief retrospect, which is at all times flattering to my own feelings, and no less creditable, I have reason to believe, to the good sense and foresight of my fellow-citizens.

Having prepared the plan, I announced to the citizens of Phila-

delphia, at the close of June, 1837, my intentions of establishing a Cemetery on Broad street. A prospectus was issued, stating terms, &c., when hundreds of citizens at once came forward, almost spontaneously to obtain lots; and hundreds more have *since* taken an interest in the ground, which renders its triumphant completion no longer problematical. But a few short months have elapsed, since it was submitted to the public for their consideration and approval; and in this brief space of time, not only have all the preliminary arrangements been settled, and a thorough organization effected, consisting of a Board of Managers, Trustees, Treasurer, &c.; but the mortal remains of several individuals have been deposited in it, as their last earthly home.

In presenting the extracts which follow, it may not be improper to state, that they have at various times appeared in the public newspapers of Philadelphia, and also of other cities; and comprehend in a condensed form, public sentiment on this important subject, as well as furnish accurate information of the soil, location, distance, elevation, &c., &c., of the site selected. The authors of these articles, it will be perceived, speak in the most encouraging language, and express in an unequivocal manner, their approbation of the project. The whole community of Philadelphia, so far as I am aware, expressed but one sentiment; and that was the hope, that the scheme might be prosecuted to a successful termination. Judging from the indications furnished by the press of our sister cities, there was also the same commendable spirit of emulation among them to establish rural Cemeteries.

Disclaiming any invidious feelings or intentions, I have now the gratification of believing, that the Monument Cemetery of Philadelphia will speedily become a distinguished ornament to our metropolis, where pilgrims, eager to behold the quiet resting place of the dead, will be attracted by the instructive lessons it will teach; and where crowds of inquisitive visitors will throng, in quest of the monuments of the taste of our city.

The plan of the Monument Cemetery contemplates improvements of the most extensive kind, in which the skill of the architect, and the taste of the gardener will be equally called into requisition. Trees will wave their shady branches, and flowers will scatter their richest fragrance over the whole scene. The weeping willow

and the dark cypress will mourn in unison over the graves around; and the modest blossoms that expand and perish, will forever remind man, that like them he is passing away. The unostentatious and silent lessons of mortality, will be taught by every thing that meets the eye. The winds will sigh a requiem among the foliage of the trees, while the birds singing in their branches will render adoration and praise to the great disposer of all events—the supreme arbiter of life and death.

JOHN A. ELKINTON, M. D.

Philadelphia, Dec. 1, 1837.

THE

MONUMENT CEMETERY

OF

PHILADELPHIA.

(LATE PERE LA CHAISE.)

No. 1.

From the Pennsylvania Inquirer of June, 1837.

A NEW CEMETERY.

It seems that the establishment of Laurel Hill, has stimulated one of our public spirited fellow-citizens to make arrangements for opening another public and beautiful Cemetery, on Broad street, between Poplar lane and Camac street. We have seen a plan of this proposed American *Pere la Chaise*, and must say that it is distinguished by elegance and taste. The location of the Cemetery will be the same in reference to Philadelphia, as that of Pere la Chaise to Paris, while the ground is exceedingly verdant, dry, and finely situated, being one hundred feet above tide water.

No 2.

From the American Sentinel of June 26.

NEW CEMETERY.

We had an opportunity of examining the plan of our enterprising fellow-citizen, Dr. JOHN A. ELKINTON, for a proposed *Pere la Chaise* Cemetery, similar to those in the neighbourhood of Paris, located on Broad street, near Turner's lane. The ground selected is admirably adapted for the purpose, being one hundred feet above tide water, and within a short distance of the city. It is proposed by the proprietor to form a Stock Company, to carry the plan into

effect; but if that does not succeed, it is his intention to carry it out by his own enterprise. We wish him success in his undertaking. The plan may be seen at the Merchants' Exchange for a few days.

No. 3.

From the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

THE AMERICAN PERE LA CHAISE.

We invite attention to a card in a subsequent column, in relation to a new and eligible site for a cemetery, after the plan of the celebrated French Cemetery of Pere la Chaise. We had an opportunity, a day or two since, of viewing the spot which has been marked out for this purpose, and also to examine the plan of the projector of this scheme; and without any wish to disparage any similar undertaking, we state unhesitatingly, as our impression, that no more desirable spot of ground could possibly be fixed upon, within the same distance from the city. Indeed, it seems admirably adapted to the design, and located as it is, within a few squares of the populous part of Philadelphia, upon an elevated and dry ground, all that is required, is, that the public should become acquainted with the position and advantages of the undertaking, to render it successful, and alike creditable to the enterprise of the proprietor, and the taste and judgment of our citizens. The site of the intended new Cemetery, is on Broad street, near Turner's lane, one hundred feet above tide water, and commanding a view of the city, of a similar character to the prospect of Paris, from the elevated parts of *Pere la Chaise.*

No. 4.

From the Philadelphia Saturday Chronicle of July, 1837.

A NEW CEMETERY.

LE PERE LA CHAISE DE L'AMERIQUE.

Among the numerous judicious improvements that have recently been submitted to public notice, we know of none possessing more

attractions than the plan of a Cemetery, on Broad street, just prepared by an enterprising citizen of the Northern Liberties. Most of our city readers doubtless remember having seen, a short distance from Turner's lane, a large yellow Mansion House on the left of the road, overlooking the whole country around, being one hundred and nine feet above tide water. This Mansion House is nearly in the centre of the proposed Cemetery, in the plan of which it is described as the "Chapel," it being the design of the proprietor to devote it to the purpose of burial ceremonials. The idea is undoubtedly a good one, and as the house is very spacious and conveniently arranged, a large funeral procession can enter, in rainy weather, during the performance of obsequies.

Not far from the chapel, and between the east and west gates, about half an acre of ground is handsomely laid out, and appropriated for ornamental purposes. In the centre of this it is contemplated to erect a Fountain. Within the periphery of the circle which encloses the fountain, a space is allotted as a carriage way, so that persons riding may enter at the east gate on Broad street, pass along the main avenue to the chapel, drive around the fountain, and without incommoding foot passengers, pass out at the west gate on Turner's lane. The shade and solitude of the place will be charming.

This new Cemetery is at a convenient distance from the city, and will undoubtedly become an agreeable place of resort for reflection and contemplation, particularly in the spring and fall, and on moonlight summer evenings. There the bereaved orphan may water, with tears of affection, the grave of the parent; and there the hand of friendship may strew flowers over the tomb of departed worth. The place is admirably adapted to the purposes of a Cemetery, and as the plan for its improvement is closely copied from *Pere la Chaise, of Paris*, it will undoubtedly soon become a place of coveted beauty.

* * * "A something of strange loveliness,
Should mark the place where Earth's fond children, come
To sleep within her all embracing arms."

We trust that an early opportunity will be afforded our citizens to purchase lots in this Cemetery.

No. 5.

From the Pennsylvanian.

THE NEW CEMETERY.

The new Pere la Chaise Cemetery, about to be established on a high and beautiful spot out Broad street, has received such encouragement from the citizens of Philadelphia, that the necessary preparations to complete it will doubtless be commenced immediately. The books for subscription to the stock were opened on Monday last, at the Exchange, for one day only, and the desire to procure shares was so great that a very large number of names were at once put down. We understand, likewise, that many others are anxious to obtain lots, and the commissioners, therefore, would do well to accommodate them by having the books again opened for a short time. Our principal hotel keepers, too, might avail themselves of the opportunity, and follow the example of the proprietors of the Tremont House in Boston, who have a place at Mount Auburn for the interment of strangers. This new Cemetery, when the ornamental plan is completed, will be a great embellishment to the city, being conveniently situated immediately on the outskirts, and having a location of remarkable beauty.

No. 6.

From the Philadelphia Gazette.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The subjoined correspondence presents several new features of attraction, for the proposed new Cemetery of *Pere la Chaise.* There seems to be little doubt that this burial ground will yet offer to the eye of the mourner and the lover of nature, a most tranquilizing scene;—not less pleasant as a place of resort, than a place of repose.

H. S. Tanner, Esq.

Dear Sir:—Will you have the goodness to examine in your new plan of the city and districts, the relative position the proposed

Pere la Chaise Cemetery on Broad street, bears, to the densely settled portion of the city and surrounding districts?

And oblige your obedient servant,

JOHN A. ELKINTON.

Philadelphia, June 30, 1837.

Philadelphia, June 30th, 1837.

Sir:—In replying to your note of this morning, relative to the settled parts of the city and adjoining districts, I regret that the means within my reach, of forming a correct judgment in this particular, forbid the definite reply to your inquiry, which I would desire.

Enough, however, is known to enable me to state that a circular line, with a radius of *one-and-three-fourth mile, and having the Pere la Chaise Cemetery for the centre*, will intersect "the most densely settled portions" of Kensington and the Northern Liberties; the northern part of the city proper, and that section of Spring Garden comprehended between the Pennsylvania Rail Road on the north-east, Fair Mount Water Works on the north-west, and Vine street on the south.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.

HENRY S. TANNER.

DR. J. A. ELKINTON.

No. 7.

From the Pennsylvania Sentinel.

BROAD STREET CEMETERY.

We learn that many individuals, in consequence of absence from the city, were deprived of the opportunity to procure stock, in the new Cemetery on Broad street, of which the books were opened on Monday last, and from the impression that the books would remain open, for that object, for several successive days. We would suggest to the Commissioners, the propriety of *re-opening* their books to enable all to participate in the benefit of so laudable an undertaking. We trust that all attempts at speculation will be

discouraged by the gentlemen, to whose management the furtherance of the plan has been committed.

We learn with pleasure that this project promises to prove fully successful; indeed, enough lots have already been disposed of, to authorize this statement. The books for further subscription will be opened to-morrow, and remain open until Saturday evening, in order to accommodate such of our citizens as may feel disposed to avail themselves of the advantages of so admirable a spot for a Cemetery. We doubt not that the lots will greatly advance in price, immediately after the books are closed.

No. 8.

From Poulson's Daily Advertiser.

BROAD STREET CEMETERY.

This is the last day for procuring stock in the Pere la Chaise Cemetery. The books will remain open until 10 o'clock this evening, at the Merchants' Exchange. The proprietors of our large Hotels should not fail to secure a few shares. The Tremont House at Boston has a large vault at Mount Auburn, where travellers who die at the hotel are deposited, until sent for by relatives. It is a very benevolent provision, and the example ought to be followed here.

No. 9.

From the Philadelphia Saturday Chronicle.

LINES

On viewing the spot of the proposed *Pere la Chaise Cemetery* on Broad Street.

BY REV. WILLIAM MANN.

Let me bury my dead out of my sight.—*Gen.* xxii. 4.

I want a spot, a sweet and charming place,
Where flowers may bloom, and near a woodland dell,
There from my fond, my much lov'd torn embrace,
To shroud in earth those forms I love so well.

Yet not a solitude alone I prize,—
Far from the haunts of men, retir'd, alone,
No, let me sleep beneath the sweet blue skies,
And near my kindred, find a kindred home.

My humble grave, the hawthorn might adorn,
Whose branches sweet, should o'er the green turf grow,
The willow there might wave its boughs forlorn,
When the young winds of summer first should blow.

And should a friend, my mouldering ashes love,—
With some *Memento* wish to crown my dust,
The storied *urn*, he there might raise above,
Or let the chiseled marble show the well-known bust.

Sweet Pere la Chaise! I see thy columns raised,
Thy lofty cenotaph! thy decent pile!
Thy sculptur'd shrine, by sweet affection grav'd,
To tell of parent, wife, or only child.

How clean thy walks, no tangling grass to stray
O'er pathways neat, with modest primrose crown'd.
At early morn, or at the close of day:—
The mourner oft shall tread thy hallowed ground.

There at the lingering hour of closing even,
'Mid thy loved scenes shall musing Beauty rove:—
Talk of dear friends, and pensive, think of heaven,
And thus prepare for brighter worlds above.

Sweet Pere la Chaise! ah, who of us can tell,
What numbers soon shall fill thy hallow'd mound?
Some who perhaps in battle bravely fell,
And some with poet's laurelled honour crowned.

The tall, the wise, the reverend head,
Shall find a lowly, friendly lodging here,
And with the learned, revered, and mighty dead,
Shall claim the tribute of a passing tear.

No. 10.

From the Commonwealth and Independent Democrat, August 2, 1837.

COMMUNICATION.

Your attention is respectfully invited to the project of a new Cemetery on Broad street, which promises to be of more importance to the northern sections of Philadelphia, than any other enterprise, which has been undertaken for many years. Mr. Tanner's letter which is enclosed exhibits at once the central position which the Cemetery will occupy. And when it is recollected that the locality possesses an elevation of more than one hundred feet above tide water, it cannot fail to be the nucleus around which a new city must spring up. Some of your readers have been surprised that a subject of so much interest to the citizens of Kensington, Spring Garden and Germantown, has been unnoticed by the journals, representing more particularly those districts. By glancing at the report of the Executive Committee of *Pere la Chaise*, recently published, it will be seen, what extensive patronage the enterprise has met with. Can it be supposed that those who live in the northern environs of our metropolis, can be indifferent to the future importance of this American "*Pere la Chaise.*" Visit Paris, pass along the Rue de la Roquette, see the thousand devotees, selling boquets of flowers blessed by wholesale by the priests, sold and strewed over the graves of the departed. Take a ride out Broad street, turn down Camac street to Turner's lane, and as you return let the eye rest upon the two hundred thousand living beings immediately in front of the landscape, and the imagination will be solemnly impressed with the contrast of a city of the dead, lying near by the city of the living.

No. 11.

From the American Sentinel.

This project has thus far been attended with complete success. We learn that more than five hundred citizens have already become interested in it, and a doubt cannot now be entertained as to its being immediately carried into operation. The public seem to be

unanimous in the opinion that rural cemeteries of this description should be encouraged, and the dead buried in some spot beyond the immediate limits of the city, and where their remains might repose in security and peace. The stockholders will, as we understand, in addition to three hundred lots extra, also own several valuable buildings now on the premises. A meeting will be held at the Exchange this evening, with the object of making preliminary arrangements, with regard to the election of Directors, &c.

No. 12.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

A Boston paper objects, and we think justly, to the name of "Pere la Chaise," given to the new Cemetery in this city. It says that this name, which belongs to a Cemetery in Paris, is not creditable to the taste of the projectors, because it can have no meaning in its present application. It is certainly not a little remarkable that in a country where God has created every thing on a most magnificent scale, man does every thing in a spirit of servile imitation, and imitation of those who inhabit a country, which, in all natural works, is a pigmy to a giant in comparison with our own. Names should always be significant, and in our country, whose institutions are peculiar, and require the utmost vigilance to preserve them from corruption, they should be fitted to inspire some nationality. We would therefore suggest to the enterprising and intelligent projector of this new Cemetery, to change its name from one borrowed from a foreign country, to one original in our own.

No. 13.

From the National Gazette.

We agree with our facetious correspondent in his subjoined remarks on the particularly bad taste of calling the new Cemetery on Broad street, *Pere la Chaise;* indeed, we had already suggested to the projector of the scheme, to alter the name to one possessing point and beauty. This mansion for the dead might be distinguished by a title replete with sentiment and poetry, As it

now stands, it is a mere unmeaning imitation, a second hand of an existing original; it is besides foreign in idiom, carries in our language no meaning, and will be generally mis-pronounced and mis-spelt except by French scholars.

We dissent, however, from the writer, in his disapprobation of the affectation displayed by our countrymen for high sounding names for places. We have no quarrel with the adoption of foreign names when drawn from ancient sources. A native Troy, Thebes, or Tyre, is to our taste; but a London, Liverpool, or Lyons, is not. We will match the name of our poetical Philadelphia against that of prosaic Plymouth, or of our Nazareth or Bethlehem against New York and Boston. This preference for the great names of old, is a beautiful trait in the American character, it springs from a sound and elevated feeling peculiar to our country. One may travel in Great Britain and the Canadas and never encounter an embryo Corinth or Carthage. The assumption of such exotic names, the glories of whose originals have long since passed away, and the attempt to render them indigenous in a new world, and to restore their objects to vigorous life and beautiful maturity, may, to the casual observer, or the cynical traveller, border on the profane or ridiculous; but one who looks to the origin of this predilection for the mighty past, sees in it either an index of the colossal grasp of a people who fancy in the erection of a village the nucleus of a future city, the rival of one of other times, or simply a wholesome regard and classical reverence for great names of old. It is at least a simple and appropriate acknowledgment of a debt of gratitude to those who have long since been beyond the pale of thanks or reciprocity.

COMMUNICATION.

Messrs. Editors.—The borrowing of European names without rhyme or reason, and their indiscriminate application to objects in this country, deserves both reprehension and ridicule.

We notice a subscription going on to a Cemetery on Broad street, which although certainly a very *grave* subject, is oddly called "*Pere la Chaise*," for no other reason than because some of the projectors have seen or heard of the fine spot with that name in the vicinity of Paris. Old Daddy la Chaise would smile (if he were alive), at having to *father* any more such establishments, and we think our good citizens would stare, if in walking through Paris

they should stumble upon "*L'Hopital Wills*," or the "*Sejour Preston*," or the "*Collége Girard*," and would think the volatile Parisians had got a little *kinckey*.

This grandiloquence is common in our country. We recollect that even a gentleman of good taste in most matters, but who had been in France when Bonaparte was Consul, strongly advised that the hotel projected on the Walnut street prison lot, should be incorporated by the lofty title of "*The Hotel of the Republic*." We should hope that a more appropriate name will be bestowed on the new Cemetery. C.

No. 14.

From the Philadelphia Ledger, of July 26, 1837.

PERE LA CHAISE CEMETERY.

We would again call the attention of the public to this project, as one which deserves encouragement from an enlightened community. It is the second which has been projected by the citizens of this city and liberties, within a short period, and like the first, will be highly ornamental to the environs of the city, and a receptacle of the departed that shall be safe from violation by the ruthless spirit of money making. When the grave-yards in all of our cities were laid out, the projectors intended and supposed that they would for ever be secure from violation. But experience shows that in cities, nothing, however useful or ornamental, or however connected with hallowed recollections, is safe, where its destruction can be subservient to the "almighty dollar." We believe that New York set the example of violating grave-yards, But whichever was foremost in this work, it is certain that Boston, New York and Philadelphia, are alike obnoxious to the reproach.

To prevent such proceedings, which, among almost any other people, would be regarded as sacrilegious, and by the Mahometans particularly with horror, the practice of establishing these Cemeteries as private property, has been lately introduced among us, and, it is hoped, will be adopted by every city in the Union.

That of Pere la Chaise, projected by an enterprising fellow-citizen, Dr. Elkinton, is about one mile and a half from the centre of the city, upon Broad street, in a north-westerly direction. It is

bounded on one side by Broad street, on another by a lot of land situated between it and Camac street, on a third by Turner's lane, and on the fourth by a line drawn from the first to the last mentioned boundaries. It contains about twenty acres of land, and is situated upon an eminence which overlooks the whole city and liberties. The centre of the lot is the highest part of it, and the ascent to the centre is gradual from each of the four sides. According to the plan lately exhibited at the Exchange, it is very tastefully laid out. The entrances are two, one on Broad street, the other on Turner's lane. Four avenues, each fifty feet wide, lead to a square in the centre, which square is bounded by an avenue on each side of the same width. The lots are arranged in rectangular rows, the rows divided by avenues twenty feet in width. The avenues between the lots are, we believe, ten feet in width. The lots are, we believe, ten by twelve feet in size.

The square in the centre is to be called Monument Square, and will contain eleven hundred private lots, and a space for a monument to Washington and Lafayette. The whole property is divided into one thousand shares, each of which entitles the owner to one lot in Monument Square, and to an equal number with each of his associates, of the remaining lots. The whole twenty acres will contain about four thousand lots; which will afford to each stockholder three lots, certainly not less than two, in addition to his lot in Monument Square. The whole is offered by the projector, for a price less than that of land in the immediate vicinity; the terms of payment are easy to the stockholders, and five dollars of the first payment upon each share, are to be applied to the monument to Washington and Lafayette in the centre square. Besides this fund, we learn that the Society of the Cincinnati will appropriate twelve thousand dollars to the same purpose, and thus make the fund immediately applicable to this monument, seventeen thousand dollars. With this ample provision, the monument and other ornaments of the centre square, will doubtless be in a style that will be creditable to the proprietors and to our city.

When we consider the ample extent of this Cemetery, its vicinity to the city, and its beautiful location, commanding a fine prospect on almost every side, and especially of the city and liberties, the tasteful manner in which it is laid out, and the ample provision made for ornament, we pronounce it highly worthy of public patronage.

The proprietors will apply for a charter at the ensuing session of the Legislature, and which they will doubtless obtain. This will effectually protect it against invasion for rail roads, canals, turnpikes, streets, or any other project of money making, to which every thing beautiful or good is sacrificed without scruple or remorse, in these days of *improvement*. These projects deserve protection, and we hope that Laurel Hill and Pere la Chaise are not the only ones of the kind of which our city and vicinity can boast, before many years have elapsed. We would renew our suggestion of substituting an *original American* for this *borrowed French* name, for this new Cemetery.

No. 15.

From the National Gazette.

The Committee on Articles of Association reported in favour of changing the name of Pere la Chaise Cemetery, and substituting "The Monument Cemetery," which was adopted by the stockholders at their meeting on Monday evening. We congratulate the Company on this improvement. The monument to Washington and Lafayette will distinguish this from any other Cemetery, and in a short time we expect to see public bodies as well as private associations, follow up this laudable example and erect monuments to the memory of the great and good who have rendered blessings to mankind.

A monument to Professor Godman is already under consideration by some of the gentlemen who own stock in this Cemetery. All such undertakings will necessarily concentrate in the Monument Cemetery. The rate of assessment we learn was also fixed upon, and is not to exceed *one dollar* per annum on each lot for the first three years, and not to exceed *sixty cents* per annum on each lot thereafter. This low rate was considered ample, in connexion with the excess lots, which will become the property of the Association, and will be disposed of, when necessary, for the general improvement of the Cemetery. The time fixed for drawing lots is next Friday, September 1st, when certificates of stock will be issued; and arrangements are making to be ready for interments next week.

No. 16.

From the Pennsylvania Inquirer.

THE MONUMENT CEMETERY.

At a meeting of the Stockholders of Pere la Chaise Cemetery, held at the Exchange, on Monday evening last, the Articles of Association were read, and the above name for the new establishment decided upon. The propriety of this appellation will be recognized, when we state that according to the original division of stock, a fund will be created, to be appropriated exclusively to the erection of a monument in the middle of the Cemetery, to commemorate the virtues and patriotism of Washington and Lafayette. We have also understood that a monument to Dr. Godman, on a liberal and appropriate scale, will be erected by a number of subscribers, at their own expense.

The second Article of Association provides for the creation of an improvement fund, and limits the sum to be paid by each subscriber at *one dollar per annum* for each lot, for the first three years, and not to exceed *sixty cents* per lot thereafter. This, together with the surplus lots, to be disposed of when necessary for the general improvement of the Cemetery, will be amply sufficient for all necessary ornaments. It is contemplated to plant a double row of cypress trees on the Broad street front, and, if possible, to reserve space for a cypress grove round the whole enclosure. The lots will be drawn for on Friday next, the first of September, at which time certificates of stock will be issued. Arrangements are progressing so rapidly, that the Cemetery will, in all probability, be ready for interments in the course of next week. Of the success of this establishment, there cannot be a doubt.

No. 17.

From the Herald and Sentinel.

THERE IS SOMETHING IN A NAME.

I was sorry to perceive by an advertisement in your paper, that the name of the new Cemetery was to be changed from "Pere la Chaise" to "the Monument Cemetery of Philadelphia."

I regret it on every account; the euphony of sound, the association of ideas, almost every reason gives to the former name the preference.

The objections made to it are, I think, of little weight. The same objections lie against the original as this one, the chief one being that it is the name of an individual, and therefore is no indication of its purpose.

To my mind, the name of "Pere la Chaise," is hallowed by the most sacred and pleasing associations that dwell in the soul, and should be perpetuated in every land.

When we recollect with what tenacity the heart clings to the memory of departed friends and relatives, how it delights to render tribute at the grave, and where the tombs and flowers perennial flourish, renewed and cherished by surviving affection, it manifests in a beautiful and attractive form the ineffaceable impressions of a holy love. It was a knowledge of all these pure and sacred feelings which cluster around the heart of the bereaved, and a desire to minister to them, which induced the pious Father to establish a Cemetery in a Catholic country, where those of every nation, clime and sect, might perform the last rites and duties, and render those pious offerings of the heart, and where forever might remain sacred the relics of departed worth. True to the instinct of nature, the friends of those excluded from Papal grounds, sought for them a resting place in this consecrated spot, and time after time as he witnessed the obsequies of the stranger, his heart was rejoiced with the stranger's blessing, which fell soft as dew upon his soul, while Charity enshrined his brow with her most verdant garland.—Blessed be the emotions of that heart which provided that spot, and sweet the reflections which it caused. The name of Pere la Chaise ever brings to mind the image of a beautiful Cemetery, adorned with every variety of reminiscence in which the heart indulges, and laid out with a taste unequalled. Every thing that is delightful and agreeable in a Cemetery, is pictured in the mind by the simple phrase Pere la Chaise. There being but one in the world, the mind instantly reverts to it. A Cemetery by any other name is indefinite, it may be a Potter's Field, a splendid or an indifferent one.

We call ships, towns, counties, &c., by the names of various persons, to honour and perpetuate their memory. Who more entitled to such distinction than Pere la Chaise, and what more

appropriate manner can be suggested. We name colleges after founders and sects also.

The human heart delights in thus evincing its feelings towards authors of the useful and ornamental, and the mind is pleased in exercising its ingenuity, in offering tribute in every novel, pleasing, and grateful form.

"The Monument Cemetery" has nothing distinctive, or certainly appropriate, for who can say it will ever have such splendid monuments as to make it a proper distinctive appellation.

I rather incline to the opinion that it will be the chosen spot of that class of persons who will evince their feelings rather by simplicity and expressiveness, than by the gorgeous exhibition of towering and sculptured monuments.

The Laurel Hill Cemetery has a much more appropriate appellation; it is without pretension, and simply means, that the beautiful spot has been consecrated to that especial purpose.

In all probability it will be far more likely to deserve the name of the Monument Cemetery than the other, in which case it will be a standing jeer as a misnomer, an abortive attempt at prophecy by those who gave it, evincing rather the ostentation of grief than the subduing simplicity characteristic of that feeling.

I think a more unlucky cognomen could not have been given, a name for such an object should be free from pretension and ostentation, and should exhibit the touching pathos of grief rather than its pomp. Besides which it must be many years before it can earn its title. I incline to the opinion, that the popular name will continue "Pere la Chaise"—the new christening to the contrary, notwithstanding.

No. 18.

From the National Gazette.

A correspondent of the Herald and Sentinel condemns the new name of the Cemetery on Broad street; we do not think the "Monument Cemetery" particularly happy, and agree with him partially in his opinion on this point: but as for a second hand foreign name of "Pere la Chaise," that is an inappropriate selection, and here we differ. Unless there is a town-crier to give lessons in the latter name, it will not be recognized in most mouths;

besides being destitute of meaning to the mass in this community. In Illinois, which has a number of old French names, given by the early settlers, it is amusing to hear the sad work which is made with them according to the popular American pronunciation. If a *sentimental* name be desirable, some latitude might be allowable in distinguishing the Cemetery by such a title as "The Last Bourne;" "The Final Repose;" "The Mourner's Rest;" "The Long Home;" or something of that kind, which would have more meaning here than Pere la Chaise.

No. 19.

From the Baltimore American.

MONUMENTAL CEMETERY.

The stockholders of the new burial ground at Philadelphia, heretofore called *Pere la Chaise*, have come to the determination of changing the name to "the Monumental Cemetery." This alteration has induced, it is said, a great accession to the number of the stockholders. In erecting a monument from which this resting place of the dead may be designated, it is proposed that it shall be sacred to the memory of the late Dr. Godman. In connexion with the gratification always felt by us at seeing distinguished talents and eminent worth meet with merited respect, we have the pride of knowing that the individual to whose memory the present testimony of respect is paid, was a native of our own state, and for the greater part of his useful life a resident among us. We have at this moment in our mind's eye some of the early patrons and valued friends of Dr. Godman, to whom it will be a source of the deepest satisfaction thus to behold honour conferred in a distant city on one who enjoyed their friendship and possessed their warmest sympathies.

No. 20.

From the Portsmouth Journal of August 17.

The following eloquent remarks on Mount Auburn, near Boston, are alike applicable to the Monument Cemetery near Philadelphia.

MOUNT AUBURN.

There is a sanctity associated with the grave. As we enter the last abode of mortal clay, the exercise of those boisterous passions which create the tempests of life, is subdued; we feel treading upon holy ground—and as but just without the thin veil which separates the mysteries of the eternal world from mortal vision. If devout feelings and holy contemplation can be excited as we enter the church yard where the plain plat is laid out with a regular line of uniform grave stones, how much can they be extended and exalted when we enter the solemnly melodious shades of such a spot as Mount Auburn.

When we visited the sacred retreat, nature had dressed the beautiful spot in her richest attire. The trees were in their darkest green and fullest leaf—the gravelly walks were snugly trimmed to the turf edging—and the margins of the ponds were regularly lined with flowers in the richest bloom. Its hundred acres are so undulating, and so variable the surface, that in scarcely any spot can an unobstructed view of an acre be commanded.—As we pass on through the various avenues, here a monument meets the eye—there an enclosure with perhaps a single stone erected—and in another direction the side of the hill presents beneath a green mound, the freestone or marble front of a mansion for the dead. As we advance, an oblong pool, mirroring in its unruffled bosom the flowers and trees on its banks, and the cerulean face of the sky, rivets the eye for a moment as by a spell of enchantment, in contemplation of the beauty of the magnificent scene.

A little distance yonder stands the first monument which was reared in the enclosure—it bears the name of a female of which Massachusetts may feel proud. Hannah Adams was in life one of the gems in the garden of literature, and it is meet that her monument should be conspicuous in such a place as Mount Auburn, where if the departed souls are suffered occasionally to linger around the clay they once inhabited, she may find so many spirits

congenial with her own. How simple are the inscriptions; in most instances the name, date, and age are all the chisseled words. Occasionally however we meet with some striking inscription as "She is not here, but risen :"'—or see the representation of the butterfly, escaping from the chrysalis and soaring in mid air, which strikingly impresses on the beholder the idea of the untrammelled spirit soaring to its native skies.

It is in such a place as this that the mind is led to contemplate its future destiny, and hold converse with the things to come. He who has purchased his own burial spot has been led to think of death,—and he, who with his family can spend occasional leisure hours in nursing the flower-bed (which gives an interest and variety to almost every little square), is literally strewing his path to the tomb with flowers, and preparing with composure to enter the "dark valley," with the hope of meeting beyond the portal the joys of a better and more enduring existence.

If the stranger who visits Boston, has but a short time to examine the various attractions which the city and its environs present, let him be sure, if it be the season when nature is attired in her attractive garb, to pay a visit to Mount Auburn.

No. 21.

From Dr. Dunglison's Medical Library and Intelligencer, of Sept. 1837.

RURAL CEMETERIES.

Whatever truth there may be in the opinion, that animal putrefaction does not produce malarious disease or any wide-spreading pestilence, there can be little doubt that air, charged with putrid miasmata, or with products of animal decomposition arising from bodies confined in a small space, as in the case of private vaults when first opened, may, especially in impressible individuals, so powerfully affect the nervous system as to produce high nervous disorder, and that when such miasmata are absorbed by the lungs in a concentrated state, they may excite putrid disorders or dispose the frame to unhealthy exanthematous affections. Experiment seems to have shown, that when putrid substances are injected into the blood they are extremely deleterious, and that when exhaled from the dead body, they have occasionally excited serious mischief

in those exposed to their action. According to Baron Percy—one of the eminent army surgeons of France, during the domination of Napoleon—a Dr. Chambon was required by the Dean of the *Faculté de Médecine* of Paris to demonstrate the liver and its appendages before the *Faculté*, on applying for his license. The decomposition of the subject, given him for demonstration, was, however, so far advanced, that Chambon drew the attention of the Dean to it, but he was commanded to go on. One of the four candidates, Corion, struck by the emanations from the body as soon as it was opened, fainted, was carried home, and died in seventy hours; another, the celebrated Fourcroy, was attacked with a burning exanthema; and two others, Luguerenne and Dufresnoy, remained a long time feeble, and the latter never completely recovered.

The possibility of such evils is highly favourable to the view—now every where prevalent—that the cemeteries of large towns should be at some distance from the inhabited portions. Even were we to set aside hygienic considerations, there are others which come home forcibly to the minds of all. In every age it has been the custom, with mankind generally, to regard the depositories of the dead as objects of veneration. In ancient Rome, the place was held religious where a dead body or any portion of it had been buried, and the violation of the tombs was punished by fine, the loss of a hand, working in the mines, banishment, or death. Even in the savage Tonga Islands, the cemeteries are accounted so sacred, that if the deadliest enemies should meet there, they must refrain from attacks of hostility. Yet, occasionally, in a civilized age, and in countries unquestionably enlightened, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, the sanctuary of the grave is needlessly violated, and political anarchy, religious bigotry, infidelity, or what is esteemed the spirit of improvement, but which is too often the thirst after lucre, have subverted sensibilities which are ordinarily held sacred. How often has it happened, in the progress of our own city to its present population, that places of worship have been disposed of, their cemeteries desecrated, and ashes, which, at the period when they were deposited there, it was presumed, would ever remain free from violation, been exhumed and scattered to the winds. These and other considerations have given rise to the beautiful Cemeteries of Pere la Chaise, near Paris, of Mount Auburn near Boston, and of Laurel Hill near this city. The preceding remarks

have, indeed, been suggested by a recent visit to the last of these. Situated at a convenient distance from the city of Philadelphia, yet so far from it as to almost preclude the possibility of future molestation in the progressive improvement of the city or from other causes; on a sylvan eminence immediately skirting the Schuylkill, and commanding a beautiful view of that romantic river; embellished in a manner most creditable to the taste and liberality of spirit of the respectable individuals under whose management it has been projected and carried into successful execution,—it is indeed a hallowed place, where affection may delight to deposit the remains of those on whom it has doated,—

—— "a port of rest from troublous toyle,
The world's sweet in from paine and wearisome turmoyle."

No. 22.

From the Philadelphia Saturday Chronicle of October 29, 1837.

MONUMENT CEMETERY.

Among the multitude of improvements that distinguish Philadelphia at the present moment, we are much disposed to be pleased with and commend those intended to make a better provision for the dead. In the bustle and turmoil of the world—while the glittering pageantry and splendour of wealth so dazzle the eyes that every thing else is almost entirely overlooked—the resting place for the body, after "life's fitful fever" is over, has been sadly forgotten. It *was* enough if beauty and ornaments decorated the dwellings of the *living*—the *dead* might repose in "cold obstruction," amid the crowded and busy haunts of men, though still in a more utter desolation than if surrounded only by the temples of nature, the silence of which was never interrupted except by the melancholy whispers of the sighing wind.

In those cities in which a grave-yard is crowded into nearly every corner—where you walk as it were, in the midst of the tombs—and where there is as much the appearance of a *city of the dead*, as a congregation of the living,—the pious affection of friends becomes chilled by such unsightly familiarity with the grave, and the holy feelings and solemn thoughts that such objects are calculated to

inspire, are seldom experienced after the first gush of grief has subsided.

The primitive Christians, warmed with a fervent zeal for every thing in which the affections were at all concerned, so far from leaving the last sad remains of mortality to moulder among the throngs of men, regarded it as almost a religious duty to convey them to a quiet receptacle in the country, where earth could mingle with its mother earth, free from the danger of being disturbed by the sordid hands that would deprive the dead of the few feet of ground that are allotted to all, or by the crowds of others who had ended the troubled dream of their existence, and had gone to claim *their* share of man's last inheritance.

Various, indeed, are the reasons why a city is an unsuitable place for a Cemetery, and we are rejoiced to perceive that they are operating with proper force upon the minds of many people of Philadelphia. The *Monument Cemetery*, of which a Lithographic plan has just been executed, by Lehman & Duvall, is one that in our opinion, combines every thing in a *natural* point of view, which could possibly be desired. Its distance from the city is sufficiently remote to prevent the apprehension that it may ever be encroached upon by our growing population ; while, at the same time, it is at so convenient a proximity as to be easily reached by the pedestrian, without experiencing a sense of fatigue. So, also, in conveying the dead to their place of destination, you go completely beyond the *prospective* suburbs of the town, but not so far as to make the mourners feel they are performing a lengthened journey. In addition to this, it is so situated as to be readily approached at all times and under all circumstances, with the utmost ease and comfort.

These, however, we do not consider the only advantages possessed by the site selected. The *soil*, which is not the least important among many considerations, is of the very best character for the purposes of interment. Being beyond the tenacious clay of the city, the upper stratum of earth is a mixture of loam and sand, that lies from two to four feet thick—after this, a sub-stratum is found, composed *entirely* of a fine *red gravel*, than which no ground, certainly, could be m re suitable for graves. Through such a soil, the water percollates almost as rapidly as through a sieve, and it must therefore, always be as dry as could ever be desired. It is also easily excavated, and tombs may be made with the greatest facility ; for it is entirely free from the rocks and large stones,

which in many situations the spade of the sexton is liable to encounter. From this fact, it will be at once perceived, with how little difficulty vaults may be constructed at the least possible expense, by those who may wish to have family tombs, in which the deceased may be visited by disconsolate friends. In conjunction with all these advantages of locality, it is situated upon an eminence attained by a rise scarcely perceptible, that completely overlooks the city, and all the country around, and affords to the eye a prospect, whichever way it stretches, at once the most picturesque and beautiful.

Of the manner in which it has been laid out, it is enough to say that it is done in a way that must add embellishments to a situation which has been furnished altogether lovely from the hands of nature. The walks and alleys intersect each other at right angles, and the design is to line them with trees, shrubbery, and flowers. Statues of Washington and Lafayette are to be raised in a reserved plot, that will be highly ornamented, and become a kind of focus to the whole enclosure. The other suitable buildings, such as a chapel, &c., have all been properly taken into the account. We cannot but believe, that this Cemetery will soon be one of the choice spots in the vicinity of our city, to which the stranger will direct his way with as much eagerness as to the famous Pere la Chaise of Paris, or the wonderful Scutari near Constantinople.

Here, surely, is a place that Friendship may visit with a righteous tribute, without the fear of being disturbed. Here may bloom in meekness, the flowers planted by affection, and watered by the tears of memory. Here may we commune with the departed, and moralize profitably upon the uncertainties of life; and here, while we look with decent curiosity upon the storied monuments of those who have gone before us to an "untried being," may we calmly anticipate the period when we shall ourselves lie down in death by the side of those we have loved; and when others will stand musing over *our* graves, and in like manner perform those kind and gentle offices for *us*, which are at the same moment, a panegyric upon both the dead and the living. L. V. N.

No. 23.

From the Inquirer of November 1.

THE MONUMENT CEMETERY.

A second burial took place in this new Cemetery on Sunday last. The deceased was a daughter of Mr. Joseph Loveridge, whose body was the first deposited within the limits of this place of rest. The father died on the 26th of September—the daughter on the 29th of October. The Rev. Mr. Gerry made some appropriate remarks on the occasion. They were listened to by a large concourse of the friends and relatives of the deceased. The arrangements connected with converting this large extent of ground into a Cemetery, are rapidly progressing. The lots have already been marked out, and in some instances, corner stones, chains and other fences have been put up. A receiving vault has been commenced, and will be completed in the course of a few days. This is intended as a temporary depository for the dead, until the arrangements for permament burial are more fully completed. The success of this enterprise being now placed beyond a doubt, those who are anxious to obtain lots, cannot make too early an application.

No. 24.

From the Philadelphia Gazette, of November 8.

THE MONUMENT CEMETERY.

It is with extreme pleasure we learn, that the success of the proposed Monument Cemetery is now placed beyond the possibility of doubt. The public at large have a deep interest in the encouragement and support of this and similar rural cemeteries; and we trust, that the time is near at hand when they will completely supercede our present city charnel houses.

The practice of burying the dead in the midst of a populous city is certainly as repugnant to good taste as it is adverse to ancient usage. Writers on medical police have long urged upon all municipal authorities its entire prohibition, and have shown by

incontestible facts, that the inhumation of a large number of dead bodies in the immediate vicinity of churches, where crowds weekly assemble for public worship, is decidedly injurious to health. The mephitic exhalations from grave-yards must be considered as one of the many causes which tend to deteriorate the atmosphere of a populous city.

Dr. Franklin early pointed out the evils that would necessarily result, as population increased, from the crowded grave-yards in the very heart of our metropolis; and recommended strongly the purchase of tracts of land remote from the city limits, to be reserved exclusively and forever as places of interment; where each family might have its own Cemetery, while sufficient space was appropriated for strangers. The hint of these rural places of sepulture, was no doubt derived from the burial places of the ancient cities, most of which were either groves or fields, situated invariably without, and often, at a distance from the city walls.

The suggestion, like many others, that owe their origin to the good sense and forethought which distinguished the mind of Franklin, was neglected at the time, and entirely lost sight of, but being recently revived by those who were ignorant probably that it had ever before been made, it has been favourably received by the community at large; and we have now the beautiful rural Cemetery of Laurel Hill, as well as the one to which we particularly referred in the commencement of the present article, for the establishment and plan of which, we are indebted to our public spirited and enterprising fellow-citizen, Dr. Elkinton. Others will no doubt be formed as soon as those now in existence shall be found inadequate for the wants of the community; for we prophecy, that very shortly, the interment of the dead within the city, will be as rare as it has heretofore been customary.

It is not our intention to say any thing in reference to the peculiar adaptation of the Monument Cemetery as a place of sepulture for the families of our citizens, in consequence of its location, the nature and elevation of its soil, and its ample dimensions; but we must be permitted to offer a word or two upon the name by which it is designated.

We were gratified at the prompt rejection by the Board of Managers of the name originally proposed. "The American Pere la Chaise Cemetery," as an appellation at once foreign and

unmeaning. Father la Chaise's Cemetery may be very appropriate when applied to the one in the vicinity of Paris, but what connexion could it have with a Cemetery that the good father confessor never saw, nor even dreamed of? But we very much doubt whether the name selected by the managers is, in any degree, more correct or appropriate. The Cemetery, notwithstanding the *monuments* it is to contain, is not itself a "*monument*" to preserve the memory of any thing, unless indeed it be the good sense and enterprise of its original projector; hence we say the name is neither expressive, nor appropriate, and we regret that it was adopted.

Had we any voice in the naming of this Cemetery, we should denominate it either the Franklin or the Rush Cemetery, inasmuch as those individuals may be considered among the very first who in this country set forth the advantages which these rural burial grounds possess over our present civic places of interment. We would even hope that it is not yet too late to induce the Board of Managers to change the name they have adopted, which to say nothing of other objections, is scarcely good English, for either of those here suggested. Many persons may think there is but little importance in a mere name; this may be so, but we nevertheless consider that even in this trifling matter appropriateness as well as accuracy should invariably be observed. D. F. C.